

DRAFT COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN YERINGTON MINE CLOSURE, LYON COUNTY, NEVADA

June 13, 2002

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Yerington Technical Work Group (YTWG) and the Yerington Stakeholders Group consists of the Atlantic Richfield Company, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Yerington and Walker River Paiute Indian Tribes, Lyon County, the City of Yerington, and the office of U.S. Senator Harry Reid. Additional members of the local communities around the Yerington Mine site, and the public-at-large may also participate in the Yerington Stakeholders Group. The YTWG has prepared this draft Community Relations Plan (CRP) as part of the Closure Scope of Work in support of achieving closure of the Yerington Mine Site per applicable State and Federal regulations. This draft CRP describes the purpose, objectives and activities proposed to keep the public informed of the various project components and to communicate the progress at the site. This plan is consistent with EPA guidelines on public participation.

1.1 Purpose of this Public Involvement Plan

This CRP will serve as the framework to ensure a successful information exchange with the public during site investigation and mine closure activities. It describes planned public involvement activities for the site, and it assigns responsibilities for implementing the communications strategy.

1.2 Agencies with Oversight Responsibilities

The YTWG currently reviews all site investigation and mine closure activities at the mine site. An existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated March 28, 2002, between the NDEP, BLM and EPA describes the review and approval procedures by these regulatory agencies for site investigation and mine closure activities at the mine site. The MOU designates the NDEP as the lead regulatory agency for site closure activities.

1.3 Contact Information

The point-of-contact responsible for the public participation process during the site investigation and mine closure activities at the site is:

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Bureau of Corrective Actions
NDEP
333 West Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89706
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1.4 Community Input into Plan

The CRP is based on input from the YTWG, the Yerington Stakeholder Group, community leaders, elected officials, and local landowners. Additionally, public meetings will be held to discuss site conditions and activities. This plan will be updated, as needed, to reflect evolving community relations needs.

1.5 Organization of the Community Relations Plan

This plan consists of three sections.

- Section 1.0, Introduction - Provides an introduction and summary of the CRP.
- Section 2.0, Objectives - Describes the specific objectives of the CRP.
- Section 3.0, Public Involvement Activities - Describes the activities designed to promote public involvement throughout the site investigation and mine closure periods.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

This section lists the following specific objectives of the CRP:

- Maintain open communication between the YTWG, Yerington Stakeholders Group, the communities located near the mine site, and other interested individuals and groups.
- Establish a CRP with the flexibility to continually identify community concerns and to respond appropriately. As needed, the plan will be updated to ensure effective communication with the community.
- Encourage meaningful community involvement by providing regulatory agencies, community leaders, elected officials, local landowners, and tribal members with accurate, timely information about site investigation and mine closure activities, as well as other important technical and administrative matters.
- Inform the public of the conditions at the site and ongoing activities. This will be accomplished by distributing newsletters and fact sheets, conducting public meetings, and establishing information repositories.
- Encourage dialogue with the public by promoting easily accessible points-of-contact for questions and comments.
- Monitor community concerns to ensure that communications meet the needs of the public.

3.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

This section describes community relations involvement activities that are intended to meet the objectives described in Section 2.0. Activities include ongoing communication with community leaders, elected officials, government agencies, Tribes, and local landowners.

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3.1 Newsletters

A periodic newsletter will be prepared and distributed to interested parties. The newsletter is anticipated to be prepared on a semi-annual basis, typically before and after the field season. This proposed schedule may be modified as needed. The newsletter will contain the following types of information:

- Descriptions of progress at the site;
- Descriptions of completed and upcoming technical activities;
- The status of any ongoing agency interactions;
- A section that addresses issues raised by the community; and,
- The schedule for upcoming YTWG and Stakeholder meetings.

The audience for this publication will be the general public, so technical terminology will be explained in readily understandable terms. These newsletters will be distributed primarily through a mailing list described further in Section 3.4, but will also be available at various locations throughout the community as well as at the public meetings.

3.2 Fact Sheets

To answer specific questions and to support the sharing of information, fact sheets will be prepared to inform and update the public about site investigation and mine closure remediation activities. These brief, one-page publications will explain technical information to the general public in easy-to-read terminology to facilitate understanding by non-technical readers. These fact sheets will be available at the public meetings.

3.3 Public Meetings

The NDEP will host public meetings to make available current information about site activities, to answer questions, and to respond to specific community concerns, issues, or events. Public meetings will be held on an annual basis, but also may be required when activities necessitate further public involvement. Public meetings will be announced in the newsletters and through published notices in local newspapers.

The designated point-of-contact will be responsible for obtaining answers to questions and following through on commitments made to the community during the meetings. At the meetings, fact sheets and copies of newsletters will be available for distribution. A sign-up list will be included to identify attendees (and particularly attendees who want to be added to the mailing list). The proposed meeting location will be in the City of Yerington. The first meeting is planned for November 2002.

3.4 Mailing List

A mailing list of interested local residents, members of the Tribe and tribal representatives, state and federal regulatory agencies, government officials, and news media will be compiled. The list will be updated, as needed, to ensure that interested parties are receiving the newsletter and notices of public meetings (as announced in the newsletter).

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3.5 Information Repositories

Information repositories have been established to provide public access to the technical reports and other information about the site investigation and remediation. Final documents will be available at:

Carson City, NV

NDEP

333 West Nye Lane, Room 138

Carson City, NV 89706

Phone: 775-687-4670

Fax: 775-687-6396

Yerington, NV

Lyon County Library

20 Nevin Way

Yerington, NV 89447

Phone: 775-463-6645

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